

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 CU-02

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, UNESCO, US, RO

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO ROMANIANS ON UNESCO 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE ISSUES

REFERENCES: (A) USUN 4269 (B) BUCHAREST 5434 (C) STATE
223298

FOR AMBASSADOR BARNES FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

1. IN VIEW REFTTEL (A) WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REIN-
FORCE PREVIOUS EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOR RE UNESCO ISSUES
(REF B) WITH CALL ON DEPUTY FONMIN GLIGA AT EARLIEST
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OPPORTUNITY. PURPOSE OF CALL WOULD BE TO BUTTRESS POINTS

MADE BY LEWIS IN NEW YORK RE IMPORTANCE -- IN TERMS OF CONTINUED US FULL PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO (INCLUDING RESUMPTION OF PAYMENTS) -- OF ACTION AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) TO ACCEPT ISRAEL INTO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUPING. (BACKGROUND AND TALKING POINTS ARE PROVIDED IN REF C.)

2. IN ADDITION, CALL SHOULD BE USED TO IMPRESS UPON GLIGA IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO (A) DEFERRAL OF GC ACTION ON DRAFT DECLARATION RE MASS MEDIA; AND (B) MAXIMUM DEGREE OF MODERATION IN HANDLING OF TWO OTHER ISRAELI-RELATED ISSUES

(I.E. EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM).

3. WE PROVIDE IN PARAS FOUR AND FIVE BELOW TALKING POINTS WHICH CAN BE DRAWN UPON IN APPROACH TO GLIGA.

4. RE DRAFT DECLARATION:

(A) PRESENT DRAFT WOULD, BY LEGITIMIZING RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MEDIA AND FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION, BREACH PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO SOCIETIES OF MANY MEMBERS OF UNESCO, INCLUDING US, AND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO BOTH UN CHARTER AND UNESCO CONSTITUTION.

(B) STRONG MISGIVINGS WE HAVE RE DRAFT DECLARATION ARE SHARED BY CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS; AT THE DECEMBER, 1975, CONFERENCE WHICH DREW UP PRESENT DRAFT, LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF THOSE ATTENDING AND LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL UNESCO MEMBERSHIP VOTED IN FAVOR OF DRAFT. DOCUMENT WITH BACKGROUND OF THIS NATURE CANNOT HAVE VALIDITY AS UNIVERSALLY-SUPPORTED DECLARATION.

(C) PREAMBLE OF DRAFT DECLARATION MAKES SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO UNGA RESOLUTION 3379 (EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM) WHICH IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO US AND MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF UNESCO.

(D) US MEDIA HAS SHOWN GROWING ANXIETY OVER THIS DRAFT
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DECLARATION AND WILL BE FOLLOWING ITS FATE AT GC WITH INTENSE INTEREST. ADOPTION OF DRAFT IN PRESENT FORM BY 19TH GC COULD CAUSE REACTION SO ADVERSE THAT, REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF ISRAELI-RELATED ISSUES, RESUMPTION OF US FINANCIAL PAYMENTS TO UNESCO WOULD LIKELY BE IMPOSSIBLE AND OUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

5. RE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES:

(A) ISSUES WILL AGAIN ARISE AT THIS GC THAT SPARKED DAMAGING CONFRONTATIONS AT THE 1974 GC: ISRAEL'S ALLEGED DENIAL OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE POPULATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM.

(B) IF THIS GC SHOULD AGGRAVATE THE CONTROVERSIAL ACTIONS ON THESE ISSUES OF THE 1974 GC, IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL BAN ON FUNDS FOR UNESCO COULD BE LIFTED.

(C) WE BELIEVE FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ISSUE CAN BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THIS GC, BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS, AT OUR URGING, HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT A FACT-FINDING MISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF UNESCO'S DIRECTOR GENERAL. FURTHER DISCUSSION SHOULD REASONABLY AWAIT THEIR REPORT.

(D) THE ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY WILL SOON RECEIVE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT BEING SENT BY UNESCO'S DIRECTOR GENERAL TO VISIT THE EXCAVATION SITES. THE 1974 SANCTION WITHHOLDING UNESCO PROGRAM ASSISTANCE PENDING THE CESSATION OF THE DIGS WAS NOT ONLY EXTREME, BUT HAD NO PRACTICAL RESULT.

(E) WE ARE WORKING, AS IS UNESCO'S DIRECTOR GENERAL, FOR THE MOST MODERATE TREATMENT POSSIBLE OF THESE ISSUES BY THIS GENERAL CONFERENCE. WE ASK THAT ROMANIA COOPERATE IN THESE EFFORTS AND DENY ITS SUPPORT TO ANY HARSH RESOLUTIONS ON THESE ISSUES THAT MIGHT BE PROPOSED.
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